

1 Advertisement

Post Title: Research Fellow in Governing Energy-Mobility Transitions

School/department: University of Sussex Business School / Science Policy Research Unit

Hours: Full time. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need)

Contract: fixed term for 2 years

Reference: 6934

Salary: starting at £37,467 to £40,927 per annum at Grade 7, or starting at £42,149 to £50,296 per annum at Grade 8

Placed on: 01 October 2021

Closing date: 26 October 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Expected Interview date: First week of November 2021

Expected start date: 1 February 2022 (with some flexibility)

The Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), within the University of Sussex Business School, is seeking to appoint a Research Fellow to work with Professor Karoline Rogge on the European Research Council project 'Governing sustainable energy-mobility transitions: multi-level policy mixes, transformative capacities and low-carbon innovations' (EMPOCI). EMPOCI will investigate how low-carbon transitions can be accelerated in the increasingly interconnected energy and mobility systems. We are looking for a candidate with a political science background, strong qualitative as well as quantitative skills and knowledge of (energy-)mobility transitions

Within this project, the Research Fellow will collaborate with Prof Rogge and 2 PhD students to jointly develop, apply and refine an interdisciplinary analytical framework bridging innovation/transition studies and policy studies to investigate interconnected and contested multi-sectoral deep transition processes in the energy-mobility-system. The Research Fellow will be responsible for conducting qualitative and quantitative empirical research in the USA (California), which is one of the four countries studied within EMPOCI – including one year of fieldwork in the US in the first year. In addition, the Research Fellow will co-lead (together with the PI) the multi-actor survey analysis. The Research Fellow will also contribute to dissemination and stakeholder engagement activities.

Applications at either Research Fellow I level, or Research Fellow II level, are welcome.

Essential criteria for the post are:

1. PhD in Innovation, Transitions and/or Policy Studies, or similar fields.
2. Excellent knowledge of various theories of the policy process (e.g. advocacy coalitions framework, policy feedback theory, policy coordination and integration) and demonstrated ability to apply these to investigate the politics of sustainability transition processes.
3. Strong expertise in qualitative case study research with organisational actors, such as from business, policy, academia and/or society (e.g. theoretical sampling, conducting interviews, computer-assisted analysis of transcripts aiming at theory-building).

4. Sectoral knowledge of energy-mobility systems, preferably covering the interconnecting electricity-mobility-ICT systems in the US and California.
5. Political knowledge of e-mobility and related policies, policy processes and/or institutional arrangements in the USA and California.
6. Expertise in quantitative research methods, in particular regarding survey design, conduction and advanced multi-variate regression analysis.

Informal enquires can be made with Professor Karoline Rogge (k.rogge@sussex.ac.uk)

For full details and how to apply see our [vacancies page](#)

The University of Sussex values the diversity of its staff and students and we welcome applicants from all backgrounds.

2. The School / Division

The University of Sussex Business School

[The University of Sussex Business School](#) was formed in 2009 and comprises the Department of Accounting and Finance, the Department of Strategy and Marketing, the Department of Management, the Department of Economics and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU). With a new home in the Jubilee Building, a state-of-the-art academic building at the heart of the campus, the Business School is a vibrant, ambitious and dynamic School with a strong research focus.

SPRU (Science Policy Research Unit)

Founded in 1966 by Christopher Freeman, [SPRU](#) was one of the first interdisciplinary research centres in the field of science and technology policy and management. Today, with over 60 faculty members, SPRU remains at the forefront of new ideas, problem-orientated research, inspiring teaching, and creative, high impact engagement with decision makers across government, business and civil society. Our research addresses pressing global policy agendas, including innovation challenges posed by the digital economy, the future of industrial policy, inclusive economic growth, the politics of scientific expertise, energy policy, security issues, entrepreneurship, and pathways to a more sustainable future.

SPRU researchers are driven by a desire to tackle real-world questions, whilst also contributing to a deeper theoretical understanding of how science, technology and innovation is shaping today's world. A 2012 study published in the journal 'Research Policy' ranked SPRU second only to Harvard University in terms of its research impact in innovation studies. With a community of over 140 MSc and doctoral students from all over the world, SPRU is also well known for its high quality, research-led teaching programmes.

The Sussex Energy Group (SEG)

The Sussex Energy Group (SEG) aims to understand and foster transitions towards sustainable, low carbon energy systems. Drawing from SPRU's tradition, researchers in the Sussex Energy Group undertake academically rigorous, interdisciplinary and world-leading research that is relevant to contemporary policy challenges. SEG also educates the next generation of energy policy professionals through our MSc and PhD programmes.

SEG's research interests are in the prospects for a more sustainable energy future. The group's expertise covers a wide range of areas, including energy innovation and transitions, economics and finance, energy justice, energy demand and behaviour, smart infrastructure, and energy supply technologies.

The Project - Governing sustainable energy-mobility transitions: multi-level policy mixes, transformative capacities and low-carbon innovations (EMPOCI)

In its 1.5°C report the IPCC stressed that global efforts to promote low-carbon transitions need to be accelerated to meet the Paris Agreement. This raises a number of questions for the emerging field of policy mixes for sustainability transitions, such as on the role of actors and multi-level governance in politically contested socio-technical transition processes.

In this European Research Council funded project led by Professor Karoline Rogge, these knowledge gaps will be addressed by asking how the global low-carbon transition in the increasingly interconnected energy and mobility systems as major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions can be accelerated on a regional and national level. EMPOCI has three objectives:

1: To provide a novel conceptual and empirical understanding of the global interplay between multi-level policy mixes and low-carbon innovations in socio-technical transitions which foregrounds the role of actors and transformative capacity.

□ *By bridging the innovation and policy studies literatures and comparatively analysing the increasingly interconnected electricity-mobility-ICT systems in four key countries (Germany, UK, China, USA), EMPOCI will advance the research frontier on transformative policy mixes for low-carbon transitions.*

2: To develop and test widely applicable novel methodological tools enabling both deep and broad insights into the drivers and barriers in unfolding multi-sectoral transition processes towards sustainability.

□ *Drawing on a multi-method research design EMPOCI will provide novel standards for assessing policy, agency and innovation dynamics in politically contested low-carbon transition processes (e.g. case studies, surveys, big data, foresight).*

3: To co-design practically relevant multi-actor strategies for accelerating sustainable energy-mobility transitions, thereby supporting the Paris Agreement in combating climate change.

□ *Based on EMPOCI's findings a transformative foresight process is organized with stakeholders from business, policy, academia and society to jointly derive implications for transformative policy mixes.*

Further information on the EMPOCI project is available here:

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/business-school/research/centres-projects/empoci>

3a. Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Governing Energy-Mobility Transitions (Research Fellow I, Grade 7)

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Governing Energy-Mobility Transitions
Grade:	Research Fellow I, Grade 7
School:	Business School, SPRU
Location:	Jubilee Building
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University.
Role description:	Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.
2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
- 1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others.
- 1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
- 1.4 Produce high-quality research outputs for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.

- 1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.
- 1.6 Individually or with colleagues, explore opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy, where permissible.
- 1.7 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.
- 1.8 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Undertake teaching duties, if required.
- 2.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

3. Contribution to School & University

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

- 4.1 Responsible for conducting qualitative multi-actor case study analysis in the USA (California), including preparation, fieldwork (incl. one year in the US), analysis, write up & comparison of results with three other countries.
- 4.2 Collaboratively develop and refine interdisciplinary analytical frameworks bridging innovation/transition and policy studies (with a focus on the politics of transitions)
- 4.3 Co-lead the design, conduction and analysis of multi-actor surveys for business, policy, academia and society on the interplay between policy mixes and low-carbon innovation in up to four countries (USA, UK, Germany, China).
- 4.4 Co-lead the integration of findings across actors, countries and methods, and the analysis of global dynamics of sustainable energy-mobility transitions
- 4.5 Support the PI in project management and communication activities (academic and non-academic), as well as supporting junior team members.
- 4.6 Co-lead the synthesis of findings and the design, conduction and analysis of transformative foresight processes

Foreseen additional role-specific duty (depending on profile of candidate)

4.7 Lead the mapping of actors & coalitions, socio-technical context and policy mixes of energy-mobility transitions, including through applying novel advances in data analytics

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- A PhD or equivalent scholarly or relevant professional activity
- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Other forms of externally recognised professional practice of creative output of a standing equivalent to regular publication of original research.
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity.
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. PhD in Innovation, Transitions and/or Policy Studies, or similar fields.
2. Excellent knowledge of various theories of the policy process (e.g. advocacy coalitions framework, policy feedback theory, policy coordination and integration) and demonstrated ability to apply these to investigate the politics of sustainability transition processes.
3. Strong expertise in qualitative case study research with organisational actors, such as from business, policy, academia and/or society (e.g. theoretical sampling, conducting interviews, computer-assisted analysis of transcripts aiming at theory-building).
4. Sectoral knowledge of energy-mobility systems, preferably covering the interconnecting electricity-mobility-ICT systems in the US and California.
5. Political knowledge of e-mobility and related policies, policy processes and/or institutional arrangements in the USA and California.
6. Expertise in quantitative research methods, in particular regarding survey design, conduction and advanced multi-variate regression analysis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Excellent skills in data analytics / science for the social sciences, such as having knowledge of programming language(s) (e.g. Python, R, Matlab), experience in solving modeling problems using AI/ML approaches, and working with NLP libraries (e.g. SpaCy, NLTK, Gensim, Hugging Face).
2. Knowledge of the policy mix and/or multi-level governance literature (in particular regional-national level)
3. Knowledge of capacity concepts (e.g. state/governance/policy, strategic, transformative urban, and/or sectoral capacity)
4. Knowledge of multiple types of innovation and underlying innovation theories (e.g. technological, organisational, social, business model, policy, institutional)
5. Experience in transdisciplinary research methods (e.g. co-design workshops, focus groups, qualitative scenario analysis)
6. Experience with multi-methods research designs combining qualitative and quantitative research methods
7. Experience in conducting systematic and interdisciplinary literature reviews (particularly in the fields of innovation and policy studies)
8. Expertise in research ethics, data management, project management, and/or stakeholder engagement
9. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
10. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.

3b. Job Description for the post of: Research Fellow in Governing Energy-Mobility Transitions (Research Fellow II, Grade 8)

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Governing Energy-Mobility Transitions
Grade:	Research Fellow II, Grade 8
School:	University of Sussex Business School
Location:	Jubilee Building
Responsible to:	Principal Investigator through to Head of School
Direct reports:	n/a
Key contacts:	Members of research group, members of faculty within the School and University, academics in the field in other institutions.
Role Description:	Research Fellow II is a career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to take a senior role within a research team, be able to demonstrate an established research portfolio, and a growing reputation in their field of study. They will also be expected to provide support and guidance to less experienced members of staff.

PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to contribute to obtaining research funding and knowledge exchange income as appropriate.
2. To contribute to School teaching activities.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

- 1.1 Contribute to the development of School research strategy and themes.
- 1.2 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research at acceptable levels.
- 1.3 Conduct research projects individually and/or in collaboration with others.
- 1.4 Assess, interpret and evaluate outcomes of research, and develop ideas for their application.

- 1.5 Produce high-quality research outputs that have impact in the field, for publication in monographs or recognised high-quality journals, or performance/exhibition, as appropriate, and contribute to the School's REF submission at acceptable levels of volume and academic excellence.
- 1.6 Lead small research projects and/or identified parts of a larger project, including supervising the work of others and managing or monitoring a research budget.
- 1.7 Make presentations at conferences, or exhibit work in other appropriate events of a similar standing and identify ways to disseminate research outputs informally via the internet, the media and other forms of public engagement.
- 1.8 Identify sources of funding and secure or contribute to the process of securing bids.
- 1.9 Identify and secure opportunities for enterprise activity, knowledge exchange income and/or consultancy where permissible.
- 1.10 Actively build internal and external contacts, and play a key role in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to, for example, identify sources of funding, secure student placements, and build relationships for future activities.
- 1.11 Contribute to a relevant national professional body or recognised events.
- 1.12 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.
- 1.13 Conduct risk assessments, and take responsibility for the health and safety of others, if required.

2. Teaching & Student Support

- 2.1 Contribute to teaching and learning in the School, including delivery of teaching if required.
- 2.2 Supervise postgraduate research students, for example as part of a postgraduate supervisory team.
- 2.3 Assist in the development of student research skills.

3. Contribution to School & University

- 3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.
- 3.2 Mentor less experienced colleagues, supporting them in developing their research techniques, and advising on personal development.
- 3.3 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.

4. Role-specific duties

4.1 Responsible for conducting qualitative multi-actor case study analysis in the USA (California), including preparation, fieldwork (incl. one year in the US), analysis, write up & comparison of results with three other countries.

4.2 Collaboratively develop and refine interdisciplinary analytical frameworks bridging innovation/transition and policy studies (with a focus on the politics of transitions)

4.3 Co-lead the design, conduction and analysis of multi-actor surveys for business, policy, academia and society on the interplay between policy mixes and low-carbon innovation in up to four countries (USA, UK, Germany, China).

4.4 Co-lead the integration of findings across actors, countries and methods, and the analysis of global dynamics of sustainable energy-mobility transitions

4.5 Support the PI in project management and communication activities (academic and non-academic), as well as supporting junior team members.

4.6 Co-lead the synthesis of findings and the design, conduction and analysis of transformative foresight processes.

Foreseen additional role-specific duty (depending on profile of candidate):

4.6 Lead the mapping of actors & coalitions, socio-technical context and policy mixes of energy-mobility transitions, including through applying novel advances in data analytics

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Regular published output of original research at international level (referred journal papers, monographs, book chapters, text-books).
- Other evidence of original research contribution to the field, such as through invited conference contributions, membership of editorial panels etc.
- Evidence of successful co-supervision of doctoral students.
- Evidence of the successful supervision of others within the research group.
- Evidence of contribution to the process of obtaining competitive/peer reviewed research support funding or collaboration in significant research projects with institutions of equivalent standing.
- Involvement in the creation, transfer and use of the results of research through a range of knowledge exchange activities.

- Success in transferring research results to commercial, professional, public sector or other practical use.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Normally educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of significant independent contribution to the design and execution of research.
3. An emerging track record of publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
4. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
5. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
6. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
7. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
8. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
9. Excellent IT skills.

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. PhD in Innovation, Transitions and/or Policy Studies, or similar fields.
2. Excellent knowledge of various theories of the policy process (e.g. advocacy coalitions framework, policy feedback theory, policy coordination and integration) and demonstrated ability to apply these to investigate the politics of sustainability transition processes.
3. Strong expertise in qualitative case study research with organisational actors, such as from business, policy, academia and/or society (e.g. theoretical sampling, conducting interviews, computer-assisted analysis of transcripts aiming at theory-building).
4. Sectoral knowledge of energy-mobility systems, preferably covering the interconnecting electricity-mobility-ICT systems in the US and California.
5. Political knowledge of e-mobility and related policies, policy processes and/or institutional arrangements in the USA and California.

6. Expertise in quantitative research methods, in particular regarding survey design, conduction and advanced multi-variate regression analysis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA

1. Excellent skills in data analytics / science for the social sciences, such as having knowledge of programming language(s) (e.g. Python, R, Matlab), experience in solving modeling problems using AI/ML approaches, and working with NLP libraries (e.g. SpaCy, NLTK, Gensim, Hugging Face).
2. Knowledge of the policy mix and/or multi-level governance literature (in particular regional-national level)
3. Knowledge of capacity concepts (e.g. state/governance/policy, strategic, transformative urban, and/or sectoral capacity)
4. Knowledge of multiple types of innovation and underlying innovation theories (e.g. technological, organisational, social, business model, policy, institutional)
5. Experience in transdisciplinary research methods (e.g. co-design workshops, focus groups, qualitative scenario analysis)
6. Experience with multi-methods research designs combining qualitative and quantitative research methods
7. Experience in conducting systematic and interdisciplinary literature reviews (particularly in the fields of innovation and policy studies)
8. Expertise in research ethics, data management, project management, and/or stakeholder engagement
9. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
10. Experience of supervising postgraduate research students